THE AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

Please delete the subtitle "Inventors" and the list of inventor names at page 1, lines 5-14.

Please replace the paragraph on page 1 under RELATED APPLICATIONS with the following paragraph:

This application is related to U.S. Patent Application No. ~~To Be Determined~~10/774,079, entitled "Method and System for Location-Based Access Control in a Computer Network;" U.S. Patent Application No. ~~To Be Determined~~10/773,487, entitled "Unified Adaptive Network Architecture." Each of the foregoing applications is filed concurrently herewith, and owned in common by assignee hereof. Moreover, each of these applications is fully incorporated by reference as set forth in full.

Please replace the second paragraph on page 6, lines 9-12 with the following paragraph:

In a preferred embodiment, the network device is powered by the network cable using a conventional Power over Ethernet (P~~O~~oE) scheme. With PoE, when the device is disconnected from the network, it, as well as its volatile memory loses power and the sensitive information is erased.

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 6-7, and the first two full paragraphs on page 7, with the following:

FIG. 2 shows an exemplary network system 10 in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention. The network system 10 protects sensitive information and deters edge device theft by keeping network configuration data and software within a network~~11~~. Specifically, sensitive information resides in a switch 20 included in the network~~11~~. The system 10 downloads the information to "dumb" edge devices 22 only when they are connected to the network~~11~~. The edge devices 22 are dumb in the sense that they cannot fully operate on a network without the configuration data and software. The configuration data and

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software are erased from the edge devices 22 when they are disconnected from the network 11. By losing this operational data and software, the edge devices 22 essentially become inoperative and cannot be used interchangeably on other networks.

The network system 10 includes the network 11 comprising at least a local area network (LAN) switch 20 connected to an authentication server 18. The system 10 also includes one or more network edge devices 22, such as wireless access points (APs) that are also connected to the LAN switch 20.

The network 11 can also include other networking components (not shown), such as gateways, routers, additional servers hosting a variety of different applications, as well as links to other networks, such as an enterprise intranet or the public Internet.

Please replace the fourth paragraph on page 12, lines 18-21, with the following paragraph.

In response to the TFTP request, the switch 20 sends one or more TFTP data packets to the AP 22 containing the requested image (step 78) and then goes into a "Wait TFTP_ACK" state (step 96). The TFTP data packets are encapsulated in the packet format shown in FIG. 4.